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Head Quarters, 2d Grand Division,

**Army of the Mississippi,**

Bethel, Tenn., 16th March, 1862.

**GENERAL ORDERS.** }  
**NO. 9.** }

With a degree of mortification and humiliation he has never before felt, the Major-General Commanding has to denounce acts of pillage, plunder, and destruction of the private property of our own citizens, by a portion of the troops of this command, which bring disgrace upon our own arms, and, if not checked, will assuredly entail disaster upon our cause. Men capable of such acts may swell our numbers, but will never add strength to our armies. They would do us less harm by serving in the ranks of the enemy, and, if not prepared to abandon the vicious habits they have unfortunately contracted, had better lay down their arms and retire. Gallant men, not thus demoralized, stand ready to use them, and will do so with that firm reliance on an overruling Providence which a consciousness of right can alone give. The first step towards achieving success is to deserve it.

Commanders of all grades will be held responsible for the suppression of this great crime. Full compensation will, in all instances, be made from the pay of the offenders; and where this fails in its object, summary punishment will be inflicted. The General will not hesitate to order the death-penalty where it may be necessary, and will approve its execution by subordinates where milder measures fail.

By command of

MAJOR-GEN. BRAGG.

GEO. G. GARNER,

Ass't Adj't General.



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